GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3230
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
NATIONAL TRUST FOR WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Trust for the welfare of persons of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mentalretardation and Multiple Disabilities has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government are taking to safeguard the interest of these groups;

(c) if so, whether the Government have issued identity cards to persons with disabilities and advised the States and Union Territories to do the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL)

(a)& (b) Yes, Sir. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy,Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities came into being in July 2000. Social, financialand physical security of a comprehensive nature for persons with severe disabilities is the ultimate goal of the National Trust. Government of India has contributed Rs. 100 crores forthe corpus of the National Trust and the income form this is being utilized to implement the schemes/programmes of the Trust.

The steps being taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities include setting up of Local Level Committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centres, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centres, development and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars etc.

(c)& (d)The identity cards to persons with disabilities are issued by the State Government/U.T.Administration. In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has in August 2000 circulateduniform guidelines in this regard to all States/ Union territories with a request to adopt thesame for the purpose. As per these Guidelines, State Government/U.T. Administration prescribe the appropriate authority and procedure for issue of identity cards, keeping in view the convenience of persons with disability, who should not have to travel for the card. All those who are certified by the appropriate authority to be suffering from disability as per the definitions given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 will be eligible to obtain the Identity Card. A medicalcertificate is a necessary pre-requisite. In case of any dispute, the appellate authority will be the State Commissioner for Disabilities.